

# City of Newburgh

## Press Release

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### **Have a Safe Holiday Season!**

“Decorating for the winter holidays is fun but can lead to disaster if you don't practice fire safety,” said City of Newburgh Fire Chief Michael J. Vatter. “Following a few simple fire safety tips can keep electric lights, candles, and the ever popular Christmas tree from causing a tragedy.” He offers the following advice for a safe holiday season:

- Don't place your live Christmas tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent.
- Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.
- Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood-burning stove.
- Inspect holiday lights for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up.
- Use only nonflammable decorations.
- Never leave a candle burning unattended
- Use no more than three standard-size sets of lights per single extension cord.
- Don't burn wrapping paper in the fireplace.
- Turn off all lights when leaving the house or going to bed